

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SAM-01 PRS-01 EUR-10 EB-03 PM-03

DODE-00 DRC-01 SPC-01 AID-10 /073 W

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R 120429Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3306

INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 1482

LIMDIS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

1. I TOOK AMBASSADOR ELIOT TO CALL ON FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAHI YESTERDAY MORNING FOR A GENERAL CONVERSATION THAT LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR. THE TALKS WENT WELL, AND EVEN THOUGH HE IS OBVIOUSLY UNDER CONSIDERABLE STRAIN WITH ALL THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE LAHORE CONFERENCE ON HIS HANDS, HE OBVIOUSLY WANTED TO TAKE THE TIME FOR RELAXED TALK AND TO HOST THE LUNCH THAT FOLLOWED.

2. SHAHI SAID THAT OUR AMBASSADORIAL VISITS HERE WERE QUITE IMPORTANT TO THEM. IT WAS GOOD, OF COURSE, TO HAVE THE FEELING THAT THE AMERICAN AMBASSADORS IN ADJOINING COUNTRIES APPRECIATED SOME OF THE PAKISTANI POINT OF VIEW. IT WAS ALSO GOOD FOR THEM IN THAT HEARING OUTSIDE VIEWS MIGHT MAKE THEIR OWN ASSESSMENTS ON MATTERS AFFECTING THEIR NEIGHBORS MORE ACCURATE, AND THIS WAS IMPORTANT AS MISASSESSMENT COULD BE DANGEROUS

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INDDDED. HE ASKED ELIOT TO TALK A BIT ABOUT THINGS IN

AFGHANISTAN AS HE SAW THEM.

3. ELIOT SAID IT WAS HIS READING THAT THE RECENT VISIT OF AZIZ AHMED TO KABUL AHD GONE QUITE WELL, AND THAT THIS SEEMED TO BE THE ASSESSMENT OF THE AFGHANS AS WELL AS THE PAK EMBASSY IN KABUL. SHAHI SAID HE AGREED, AND HE THOUGHT POPAL HERE HAD BEEN EFFECTIVE IN PREPARING THE AFGHANS FOR THE VISIT. SHAHI SAID HE HAD ONE CONCERN IN REFERENCE TO THE VISIT. HE SAID THEY KNEW THAT AFGHANISTAN HAD RECENTLY MADE A DEMARCHE TO ANOTHER MUSLIM STATE, SAYING THEY WOULD NOT ATTEND THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE IF IT WAS IN PAKISTAN, BUT WOULD GO IF IT WAS IN SOME OTHER NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY. HE SAID AT THE MOMENT HE WAS TRYING TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE AFGHANS HAD TAKEN THIS ACTION BEFORE OR AFTER THE AZIZ VISIT. IF IT WAS AFTERWARDS, HE WOULD FIND IT QUITE DISQUIETING. ELIOT SAID HE CERTAINLY HOPED THAT IT WAS BEFORE THE VISIT OF AZIZ, AND HE THOUGHT THE NEXT THING TO WATCH WAS WHOM THE AFGHANS SELECTED TO REPRESENT THEM IN LAHORE. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW, BUT WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT DECISION NOT YET MADE WHEN HE LEFT KABUL.

4. ELIOT GAVE SHAHI HIS FEELINGS ABOUT SITUATION IN KABUL, SAYING HE FELT DAOUD WAS INCREASING HIS CONTROL. TENSIONS COULD STILL BE FELT BUT HE THOUGHT THINGS WERE IN BETTER SHAPE THAN SAY THREE MONTHS AGO. THERE SEEMED TO BE A GENERAL FEELING THAT THE COUNTRY WAS BETTER OFF WITH DAOUD IN CONTROL THAN WHAT MIGHT REPLACE HIM IF HE WERE NOT. IN ANSWER TO A QUESTION HE SAID THAT DAOUD WAS STILL HAVING VERY LITTLE CONTACT OUTSIDE OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUT THAT HE SEEMED TO TAKE NO UNUSUAL SECURITY PRECAUTIONS. HE WAS STILL BEING LOOKED UPON AS INCORRUPTIBLE AND SEEMED TO BE LIVING A MODEST AUSTERE LIFE. SHAHI WONDERED ABOUT REVENGE UPON DAOUD COMING FROM SOME OF THE TRIBES WHOSE LEADERS HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED OR KILLED. ELIOT FELT THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO ESTIMATE PUSHTUN "REVENGE" BUT THOUGHT THE SITUATION WAS BEING KEPT UNDER CONTROL, AND THE ELEMENT OF FEAR ON THE PART OF THOSEWHO MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO TAKE OVERT ACTION WAS UNDOUBTEDLY A FACTOR.

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5. ELIOT SAID FROM EVERYTHING HE COULD DISCOVER HE THOUGHT THE NORMAL DESCRIPTION OF DAOUD AS AN INTENSE PATRIOT WAS PROBABLY CORRECT AND THAT HE REALLY MEANS NON-ALIGNMENT, I.E., THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT THE SOVIETS, THE U.S., INDIANS, OR IRANIANS, OR ANYONE ELSE TO GAIN CONTROL IN HIS COUNTRY. HE SAID, OF COURSE, THEY WERE CLOSE TO THE SOVIETS AND THIS WAS IMPORTANT BECAUSE OF

BARTER TRADE ARRANGEMENTS AND MILITARY SUPPLY. AS REGARDS PUSHTUNISTAN, HE HAD NOTED A DECREASE IN THE PROMINENCE THIS SUBJECT IS RECEIVING IN THE LOCAL PRESS IN THE LAST MONTH OR SO. SHAHI NOTED THAT KABUL RADIO'S "PUSHTUNISTAN" PROPAGANDA HAD, HOWEVER, BEEN MAINTAINED AT ABOUT SAME HEIGHTENED RATE SINCE DAOUD'S COUP.

6. SHAHI INQUIRED ABOUT AFGHAN RELATIONS WITH IRAQ, IRAN AND INDIA. ELIOT DID NOT SEE MUCH GOING AS FAR AS IRAQ WAS CONCERNED, BUT THOUGHT RELATIONS WITH IRAN WERE PROBABLY IMPROVING. HE SAID THEY WERE QUITE FRIENDLY WITH INDIA BUT HE DID NOT SEE ANY ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM INDIA ON THE PUSHTUNISTAN QUESTION. SHAHI INQUIRED AS TO HOW MUCH SOVIET MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS COSTING THE AFGHANS AND WONDERED IF THEY ACTUALLY PAID FOR IT. ELIOT SAID WE REALLY DID NOT KNOW, BUT ASSUMED THAT IT WAS ALL

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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INFO HMEMBASSY KABUL 3772

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 ISLAMABAD 1482

LIMDIS

WORKED OUT THROUGH THEIR BARTER ARRANGEMENTS INVOLVING GAS, COTTON, FRUIT, ETC.

7. SHAHI SAID THERE HAD BEEN ONE SHORT CONVERSATION WHILE AZIZ AHMED WAS IN KABUL ON "THE PROBLEM" BETWEEN AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN. HE SAID DAOUD STATED THAT HE VIEWED THIS PROBLEM AS ONLY BEING SOLVED EVENTUALLY IN A LARGER CONTEXT, AND COMMENTED THAT PAKISTAN NEED HAVE NO FEAR THAT IN THE MEANTIME AFGHANISTAN WISHES HARM TO PAKISTAN. SHAHI SAID THIS STATEMENT WAS GOOD AS FAR AS IT WENT, BUT HE WONDERED IF IT WOULD BE REFLECTED IN PRACTICAL MATTERS.

8. MANY OTHER MATTERS, SUCH AS DAOUD'S RECENT APPOINTMENTS, ORGANIZATION OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT, THE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY KEY PERSONALITIES, ETC. WERE TOUCHED UPON. ALL IN ALL IT WAS ONE OF THOSE GENERAL TYPE OF DISCUSSIONS THAT ONE FEELS GOOD ABOUT AND IS MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL. IT IS TOO CONFIDENTIAL

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BAD THAT ELIOT COULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO AZIZ AHMED, AND THAT BHUTTO IS IN KARACHI AND THEN GOING TO LAHORE. BHUOSO TOLD ME SOME TIME AGO THAT HE WOULD LIKE VERY MUCH TO SEE ELIOT WHEN HE ARRIVED, BUT THE TIMING OF HIS VISIT HAS TURNED OUT TO BE SUCH THAT THAT WAS NOT POSSIBLE. BYROADE

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